

From: John Hails
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/20/01 6:12pm
Subject: My opinion on the Microsoft case

I think this notice pretty much says what the outcome is. Microsoft once again takes everyone to the cleaners.

By REUTERS

WASHINGTON -- Microsoft said on Tuesday it had reached a deal to settle a raft of private antitrust cases against the company, which sources said would cost the software firm more than a billion dollars.

The agreement with class action attorneys would require the company, which agreed to settle its separate 3-year-old case with the Justice Department earlier this month, to provide free software and computers to more than 14,000 of the poorest U.S. schools over five years, sources close to the case said.

More here:
<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/technology/tech-tech-microsoft.html>

The settlement should really really make a lot of people very mad. Namely Apple for one. It is a great idea to give to the schools badly needed technology. But to force Microsoft products onto schools is not only a really nasty thing to do to schools in one fell sweep it give market share to Microsoft and takes away from Apple.

The thing to do is take the actual MONEY and NOT equipment or software and give it to the schools so they purchase what they want and how they want.

Not have it shoved down their throat. Besides, allowing them to gain market share in education is a REWARD...it is NOT punishing them in any way. If the money was given to the schools to use at they saw fit they might spend it on other things not related to Microsoft and the school would benefit but MS would not. Look at it in the long run...MS gets to

sell them upgrades and updates. That isn't right.

I can't believe this stuff is going like this. How horrendous this is.
On

the top it looks great that MS is giving to schools and who could possibly be against it. But really, who can be against giving them the money so they can buy the technology they want and can use? NOT whatever MS feels they need. This settlement is just plain wrong. MS is being rewarded all over again rather than punished.

Please someone stand up and tell me that I am completely wrong. Should I be HAPPY about this?

Carl Blake